

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049407
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM THE WHITE HOUSE
APPROVED BY EUR/ REBARBOUR
S/S - MR. SHANKLE
EUR/WE:JFDOBBINS
S - JCAHILL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049407

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, US

SUBJECT: RESPONSE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO LETTER FROM
FRENCH PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING.

YOU ARE REQUESTED TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING. THE
ORIGINAL IS ALSO BEING POUCHED TO THE EMBASSY FOR DELIVERY.

1. BEGIN TEXT: "DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: THANK YOU FOR YOUR
LETTER OF JANUARY 29, 1977, WHICH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE
BROUGHT TO ME FROM PARIS. HE HAS REPORTED TO ME ON THE
FRANK AND USEFUL DISCUSSIONS HE HAD WITH YOU DURING HIS
VISIT. I AM PLEASED AT THE BEGINNING OF MY ADMINISTRATION
TO HAVE YOUR VIEWS ON THE FULL RANGE OF MAJOR WORLD ISSUES
WHICH BOTH OUR COUNTRIES FACE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 049407

2. I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT ON THE URGENCY
OF THE WORLD ENERGY PROBLEM. IN THE CURRENT MARKET SITUA-
TION, IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE OIL-CONSUMING COUNTRIES
TO REINFORCE THE DECISION OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED
ARAB EMIRATES AT THE QATAR MEETING OF OPEC, TO LIMIT THE
INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF THEIR OIL. IT IS THEREFORE IMPOR-
TANT THAT ALL OIL AVAILABLE AT THE LOWER PRICE BE TAKEN UP

THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET.

3. AS YOU SUGGEST, WE MUST ALSO TRY TO MODERATE OVERALL DEMAND FOR OIL. IN THIS REGARD, I APPLAUD THE DECISION BY YOUR GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE A CEILING ON OIL IMPORTS. IN THE UNITED STATES, WE ARE TRYING, IN DEALING WITH THE EFFECTS OF THIS UNUSUALLY SEVERE WINTER, TO LIMIT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THE EXTENT TO WHICH OUR INCREASED NEED FOR FUEL RESULTS IN HIGHER LEVELS OF OIL IMPORTS.

4. I ALSO AGREE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE MAJOR OIL-CONSUMING INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO ADOPT SERIOUS LONG-TERM PROGRAMS TO REDUCE OUR REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTED OIL. AS VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE EXPLAINED TO YOU, I ATTACH THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO THE PROMPT CREATION OF AN EFFECTIVE US PROGRAM TO REDUCE OUR DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL. BY MID-APRIL, MY ADMINISTRATION WILL DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF ENERGY PROPOSALS, FOCUSING BOTH ON CONSERVATION AND ON THE FASTER DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC ENERGY SOURCES.

5. I RECOGNIZE THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES IN REDUCING WORLDWIDE DEMAND FOR OPEC OIL, AS YOU SUGGEST, NO ONE COUNTRY -- OR EVEN A GROUP OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS THOSE BELONGING TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY -- CAN BY ITSELF BRING ABOUT THE MAJOR CHANGE IN THE WORLD ENERGY SITUATION NEEDED TO SAFEGUARD OUR SHARED, LONG-TERM ECONOMIC INTERESTS. THEREFORE, I BELIEVE WE MUST PROCEED TOGETHER, WITH EACH OF US HELPING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO REACH OUR COMMON GOAL OF REDUCED DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 049407

AND A MORE STABLE WORLD BALANCE OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

6. THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY HAVE BEGUN A PROGRAM TO REVIEW NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAMS, RECOMMEND WAYS TO IMPROVE THEM, AND ESTABLISH MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES FOR REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL. THE UNITED STATES WILL EXPLORE NEW COOPERATIVE MEASURES WITH OUR FRIENDS ABROAD, TO REINFORCE NATIONAL ENERGY EFFORTS THROUGH DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE FUEL SUPPLIES AND EXPANDING COOPERATION ON ENERGY RESEARCH.

7. I HOPE THAT THROUGH BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS, AND THROUGH CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS ON ENERGY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, WE CAN ALL ASSURE THAT OUR NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND GOALS ARE IN HARMONY. YOU AND I WILL, OF COURSE, HAVE A CHANCE AT THE SUMMIT MEETING IN MAY TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER LEADERS WHO WILL ATTEND, AND TO EXAMINE NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION. IMPROVEMENT IN THE ENERGY OUTLOOK IS ESSEN-

TIAL TO A HEALTHY WORLD ECONOMY, AND EXPANDED COOPERATION IN ENERGY MUST, THEREFORE, BE A CENTRAL ELEMENT IN OUR COMMON EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS AMONG INDUSTRIALIZED

COUNTRIES. SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER" END TEXT.

FYI: THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT GISCARD'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER:

8. BEGIN TEXT: "MR. PRESIDENT, DURING MY RECENT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, HIS MAJESTY KING KHALID TOLD ME THAT HE WAS WATCHING CLOSELY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HIS DECISION TO LIMIT TO 5 THE INCREASE OF UNREFINED SAUDI ARABIAN OIL. FOR THIS DECISION TO BENEFIT FULLY THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THOSE COUNTRIES, DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, TRY TO MODERATE THEIR OIL DEMANDS SO AS TO AVOID ANY PRESSURE ON THE MARKET.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 049407

9. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT SHARES THIS ANALYSIS, AND HAS DECIDED, FOR ITSELF, TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES THAT WOULD FAVOR SOME RELAXATION OF THE OIL MARKET. IT HAS THEREFORE DECIDED, FOR 1977 AS IT DID FOR 1976, TO LIMIT ITS OIL IMPORTS TO A STRICT CEILING, AND TO PURSUE VIGOROUSLY A POLICY OF ENERGY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATE SOURCES OF ENERGY, ESPECIALLY NUCLEAR ONES. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS TRYING, IN THIS SPIRIT, TO RALLY IT'S EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO THE SAME OPINION.

10. I WANTED, MR. PRESIDENT, TO INFORM YOU OF THOSE TOPICS OF CONVERSATION, WHICH SHOULD PROMPT US TO INTENSIFY AND REINFORCE, NOW MORE THAN EVER, THE COMMON EFFORTS MADE IN THIS DIRECTION BY WESTERN COUNTRIES. THE OIL PRODUCER'S INTERESTS RESIDE IN REDISCOVERING UNITED MARKET PRICES AND THE CONSUMER'S INTERESTS RESIDE IN THE FACT THAT, IF THIS IS TO BE THE CASE, THIS UNION SHOULD REVOLVE AROUND THE MOST MODERATE POSITION POSSIBLE. I BELIEVE OUR COUNTRIES CAN INFLUENCE THIS EVOLUTION, NOT ONLY IN TRYING TO RESOLVE THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND FINDING A FAVORABLE DECISION TO THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, BUT ALSO IN PROVING THAT THEY DO WANT TO REDUCE THEIR DEPENDENCY FROM IMPORTED OIL.

11. I HAVE NOTED, WITH GREAT INTEREST, IN THAT RESPECT, THE DECLARATIONS THAT YOU AND MR. SCHLESINGER HAVE MADE, PRESSING A NEW DEFINITION OF THE ENERGETIC POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES. IT SEEMS TO ME OBVIOUS THAT FRANCE'S EFFORTS, OR EVEN THOSE OF EUROPE, WILL BE INSUFFICIENT IN REDUCING THE WORLD-WIDE OIL DEMAND, IF YOUR COUNTRY, FIRST

IMPORTER AND FIRST CONSUMER IN THE WORLD, DOESN'T RAPIDLY
AND FIRMLY PURSUE THE SAME POLICY. YOU CAN SEE HOW MUCH I
HOPE YOU COULD SHAPE UP A POLICY THAT WOULD ANSWER TO THE
MOST COMMON AND BASIC GOAL OF ALL INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 049407

12. IN HANDING THIS LETTER TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, WHOM
I AM RECEIVING IN PARIS WITH THE GREATEST SYMPATHY, I
INSPIRE MYSELF FROM THE TRUSTFUL SOLIDARITY THAT GUIDES THE
RESPECTIVE POLICIES OF FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES.

13. PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, MY VERY HIGH AND CORDIAL

CONSIDERATION. VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING" END TEXT.
CHRISTOPHER

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Subject: RESPONSE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO LETTER FROM FRENCH PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE
TAGS: PFOR, PPDC, FR, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (GISCARD D'ESTAING)
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